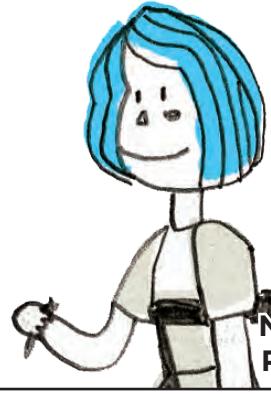


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A FREE PAPER FOR FREE KIDS

ISSUE #26 • SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2010

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

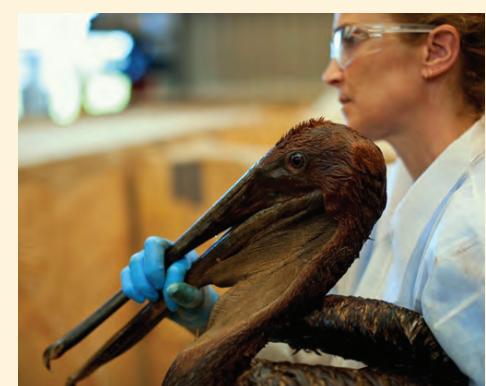


LUCKY TURTLE: A biologist found this Kemp's Ridley sea turtle covered in oil and brought him to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Research Lab. After oil samples were taken from the turtle's body, he was moved to an aquarium that cleans and helps rescued animals heal. Rescuers named this turtle "Lucky."



On April 20, an explosion at an oil and gas well of the oil company BP (formerly British Petroleum) caused millions of gallons of oil to pour into the waters of the Gulf of Mexico. The leak was finally stopped three months later, but then the oil spread and came to the water surface. The oil pollutes the water and makes the air above it difficult to breathe.

BP and the U.S. government worked to clean up the spill by using barriers to prevent the spread of oil. They also burned the oil, used chemicals to break up the oil and skimmed off the oil and separated it from the water. The problem is that most of these solutions cause more pollution and damage to the environment.



The Gulf of Mexico is home to many unusual species of birds, sea turtles and marine mammals.

The Aftermath of the World's Largest Oil Spill

OIL COMPANY POWER

BP is one of six major oil companies in the world that has a large influence in politics in the United States. The company and its employees have given over \$3.5 million to political candidates, including President Obama. BP has also violated many safety standards in order to cut costs. "In just the last few years, BP has paid \$485 million in fines and settlements to the U.S. government for environmental crimes," said Tyson Slocum of Public Citizen in a *Democracy Now!* interview.

BY THE NUMBERS

4.9 million	Total number of barrels of oil leaked into the Gulf of Mexico from April 20 to July 15, 2010
42	Number of gallons in a barrel of oil
10%	Amount of oil spilled that has been cleaned up as of August 2010, according to Bill Lehr of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
\$6.1 billion	January-March 2010 BP profits

WHAT KIDS CAN DO

Learn about energy and other sources of energy besides oil and teach others, too!

Start or join an environmental club at your school.

Find out who your U.S. House and Senate representatives are. Write to them about making stronger environmental laws to protect our environment from polluting industries.

Ask your representatives to support alternative energy sources like wind and solar power.

This girl joined hundreds of protesters in New Orleans on May 30 to demand that BP take action to clean up the leaked oil. People who made a living fishing for shrimp, oysters and crabs are now out of work. The back of her sign reads, "Will I ever be able to go fishing with my grandkids?"



Flickr.com/frogmation of New Orleans



Meet... Alana from Hawaii

Name: Alana Fetuolemoana
Kihoi-Richardson

Age: 10

Hometown: Pearl City

Languages spoken: English

Family: Mom, dad, aunties, uncles, cousins and grandparents

Mother's work: Make-up artist

Favorite Hawaiian food: Kalua Pig and Cabbage, Laulau and Poi

Favorite activities: Singing, playing tennis and doing Junior Police Officer duties (in Hawaii, Junior Police Officers, or JPOs, are kids who help make sure that their school is safe, clean and organized).

What would you like to be when you grow up? A veterinarian

What would you like kids in the continental United States to know about life in Hawaii?

Here in Hawaii, we dance hula, where you wave your hands to tell a story.



Hawaii at a Glance

Location: The Pacific Ocean

Population: About 1.3 million

People: Asian 38.8%, Caucasian 30.2%, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander 9.2%, Hispanic 9.0%, African American 3.2%, Other 9.6%

Official State Languages: English and Hawaiian

History: It is believed that the first people in Hawaii came from other Polynesian islands over 1,000 years ago. In 1893, the U.S. military overthrew the last Hawaiian monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani. In 1959, the U.S. government took over the Hawaiian Islands completely, making it the country's 50th state the same year.

Learn a little HAWAIIAN

Aloha: Hello, Goodbye or Love

Keiki: Child

'Ohana: Family

Mahalo: Thank you!

Hau'oli la Hanau: Happy birthday!

80%

That's the percentage of people living in Gaza who depend on assistance from the United Nations to survive.

nation & world

Gaza-Bound Aid Boats Attacked



SUHAIR KARAM/IRIN

According to the United Nations, Israel's strict four-year blockade on Gaza has caused a "humanitarian crisis." Israel says the blockade is to protect its citizens from attacks by people in Gaza.

By PEDRO LAHOZ WOLFE

Gaza, which is located in Palestine off the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, has been under occupation by Israel. The conflict started about 43 years ago when Israel occupied the territory. The Palestinian people have been

fighting for their right to exist as a nation. Israel, with the support of the United States, has created a blockade keeping ships from bringing supplies to Gaza.

In late May, 2010, nine ships carrying Turkish and American activists bringing medical supplies to Gaza were attacked by Israel. As the ships were

in international waters on their way to Gaza, Israeli helicopters dropped soldiers onto the ships to stop them. More than ten activists were killed, including a teenager, and the rest were detained in prison. The Israeli government said that the soldiers who attacked the ships were hit with metal poles and chairs. So they fired

bullets at the people on board. They also said they found weapons aboard, which later proved to be table knives for eating.

There have been protests in the United States against the attack on the aid boat and against the Israeli occupation in general. Even more protests are taking place in Turkey against what Israel called "Operation Sea Breeze" (the boat attack). Many people are saying that since the boats were in international waters when they were attacked, not Israeli waters, the attack was illegal. The Israeli government says that the soldiers were merely defending themselves. The main ways many people are protesting Israel's actions are by boycotting (not buying products made in Israel), divesting (telling companies not to give money to Israel), and simply protesting (telling other people what is going on).

Pedro Lahoz Wolfe, age 10, is a student in New York City.

Anti-Islam Attacks Sweep the Country

By CHIRAG BHATT

Mosques to be constructed in the United States have lately been the subject of controversy. A mosque is a place of worship for a person of the Islamic faith.

This spring, plans for an Islamic community center in New York City near the site of the **September 11, 2001** attacks made news headlines. The new Islamic community center would be similar to a YMCA with a gym and pool and a Muslim prayer space. The proposed center is not at the "Ground Zero" site of the attack. Nor is it a mosque. However, people who don't like the project have called it the "Ground Zero Mosque."

The first amendment of the U.S. Constitution grants the "free exercise of religion." New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg has come out

in support of the community center, saying "the owners have a right to use the building as a house of worship, and the government has no right whatsoever to deny that right."

Mosques that are planned to be built in California, Kentucky, Wisconsin and Tennessee have also faced opposition from citizens, including Christian ministers and political candidates. In August a mosque in Madera, California, was vandalized with signs that read "No Temple for the God of terrorism at Ground Zero."

There have also been rallies in support of mosques. One supporter of the Islamic community center is Talat Hamdani, who lost her son, a paramedic, in the September 11 attacks. She told *The Associated Press* that the issue "has to do with standing up for our human rights, including freedom of religion."



Girls demonstrate in support of a proposed Islamic community center in New York City.

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IndyKids is a free newspaper, website and teaching tool that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. **IndyKids** is funded through donations and grants.

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New York City Indymedia: www.nyc.indymedia.org
Teachers Unite: www.teachersunite.net
Teaching for Change: www.teachingforchange.org

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Just contact **IndyKids!** Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

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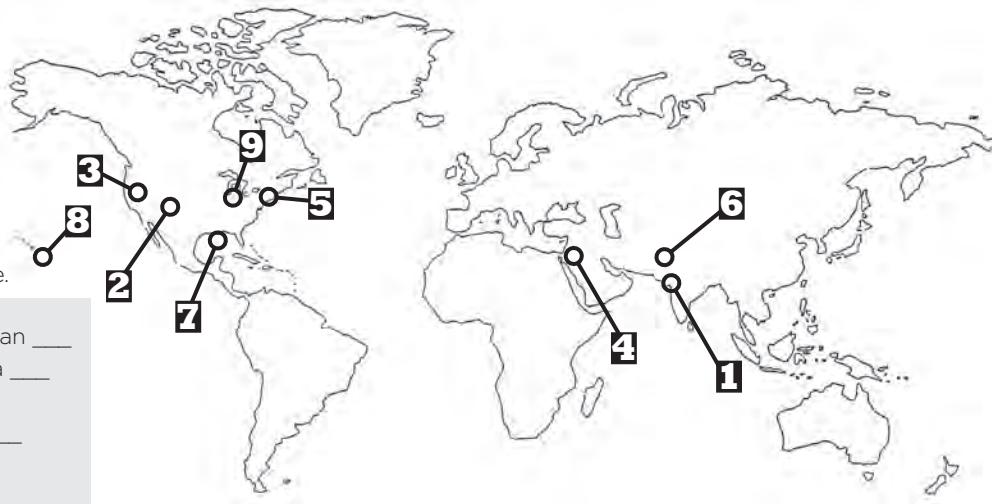
• Richard Schneider

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Where in the World?

All the places listed below are mentioned in this issue. Can you match them with their general location on the world map at right? Answers are at the bottom of this page.

a) Gaza _____ f) Afghanistan _____
b) Gulf of Mexico _____ g) California _____
c) Pakistan _____ h) Ohio _____
d) New York _____ i) Arizona _____
e) Hawaii _____



Massive Floods Tear Through Pakistan



United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon said of the floods in Pakistan: "In the past I have visited scenes of many natural disasters around the world, but nothing like this."

By JYOTHI NATARAJAN

More than ten million people are in need of humanitarian aid in Pakistan as a result of the worst monsoon floods in the country's history. Beginning in late July, an unusually heavy amount of rain began to fall on parts of central and northern Pakistan. The heavy

rains that caused flooding continued into August, moving south along the Indus River, an area that is the heart of agriculture and food production in Pakistan.

Agriculture is the main source of income for 70 percent of Pakistan's population. According to the Pakistani Minister of Food and Agriculture, at least 20 percent of the

country's farmland has been flooded, and more than 200,000 farm animals have died. As food prices begin to soar, aid workers are struggling to get enough food to those in need.

With the rising waters, disease is a major concern. The United Nations has reported that over 3.5 million children in Pakistan are at risk of being infected with diseases such as severe diarrhea and malaria.

The United Nations has asked for \$460 million dollars in aid from other countries to cover the first 90 days of recovery. They have received 69.1 percent of that amount.

Survivors of the flood have been protesting the slow response and lack of international aid. One man at a protest told the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation): "There seems to be no government here since the floods. We lost our children, our livestock. We could hardly save ourselves. We have to tell the government, and it's the responsibility of the government to do whatever is possible."

MONSOON: seasonal wind and rains, especially in Southern Asia

Secret Military Papers Released Documents Show Frightening Reality of the Afghanistan War

By AMANDA VENDER

The website WikiLeaks has released over 76,000 secret documents about U.S. military actions in Afghanistan from 2004 to 2010. The documents paint a bad picture of the U.S. war in Afghanistan. WikiLeaks will not say how it got the papers, but they must have come from a whistleblower inside the U.S. military who wanted people to know what is going on in Afghanistan.

WikiLeaks shared the documents with three major newspapers, *The New York Times*, the *Guardian* of London and the German *Der Spiegel*, and each newspaper released its own report on these documents on July 25.

The founder of WikiLeaks, Julian Assange, explained why WikiLeaks published the documents. "It is



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. MICHAEL L. CASTELL

the role of good journalism to take on powerful abusers," he told the *Guardian*. "It will show the true nature of this war and then the public from Afghanistan and other nations can see what's really going on and take steps to address the problems."

The U.S. military is angry about the release of the papers. National Security Advisor Gen. James Jones said they "could put the lives of Americans and our partners at risk, and threaten our national security."

WHAT THE PAPERS SHOW:

- U.S. soldiers and allies have killed hundreds of civilians (people not in the military) including children in Afghanistan;
- There is a secret U.S.-led military squad that hunts down people to kill them without a trial;
- The neighboring country, Pakistan, which receives money from the United States, has a spy agency that plans attacks on U.S. troops.

WHISTLEBLOWER: a person who has information about wrongdoing, usually by a government or corporation, and lets the world know about it

To learn why there is a war in Afghanistan, visit: www.indykids.org

newsbriefs

Native Americans' Visas Denied



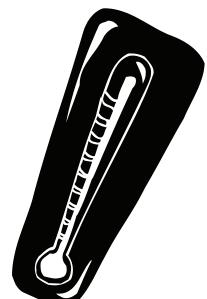
MIKE LIGHT, NOTIONSCAPITAL.COM

The Iroquois Nationals lacrosse team (a Native American team in the United States) was supposed to play in the 2010

World Lacrosse Championships in England from July 14 to 24, but the players were denied visas from the UK government. The players were traveling on their Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) passports that represent various nations of indigenous North Americans. The team members are descendants of the tribes that invented lacrosse.

The Heat Is (Still) On

A new study by NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies shows that the 12 months from August 2009 through July 2010 make up the hottest year since measurements began about 130 years ago. More importantly, the study confirms that the Earth continued to heat up as quickly in the last ten years as it did in the 1990s.

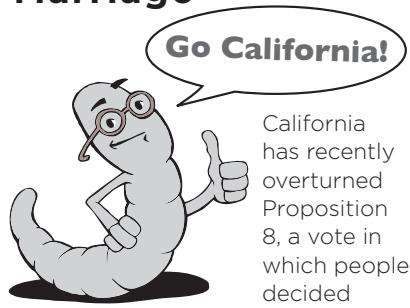


Bad Eggs



Egg companies recalled over 550 million chicken eggs in the state of Iowa in August. The eggs contained the bacteria salmonella that affected 1,470 people throughout the United States. The bacteria spread because of filthy conditions on the factory farms.

Victory for Gay Marriage



California has recently overturned Proposition 8, a vote in which people decided to ban gay marriage in the state. The judge in the case decided that the ban was unconstitutional. He said that the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees equal protection for all citizens under the law, including gay people. However, gay marriage is still banned in California until passed through other courts in the state.

Jobless Youth

The unemployment rate for youth ages 16 to 24 went up to 19.1 percent in July, 2010. This is the highest July rate on record, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.



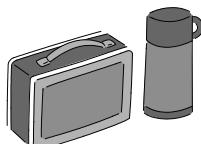
No Clean Water



The United Nations reports that nearly 900 million people do not have access to clean water. Those in the Sub-Saharan Africa and Pacific regions have the least access to clean water. Last July, 122 countries, excluding the United States, supported the United Nations in declaring that access to clean water is a human right.

U.S. Senate Brings Nutrition To School Lunch

The U.S. Senate just passed the "Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010."



If signed into law, this bill means that an additional \$4.5 billion over the next ten years will go to federal nutrition programs for children, such as the National School Lunch and Breakfast Program. It will also be the first time in 30 years that funding to this program has been increased.

Getting Wild with the Great White Shark



TERRY GOSS

Terrifying, toothy predator, or vital member of the ocean community? Some myths and facts about the great white:

Myth: They'll eat people any chance they get.

Fact: Sharks that take a "test bite" of a human sometimes spit it out. They prefer more blubbery, less bony meals, like seals.

Myth: They're pea-brained killers.

Fact: Great whites live peacefully with each other. They're skilled hunters, but not mindless.

Myth: The world would be a better place without sharks.

Fact: Great whites are important for environmental balance. If they stopped eating seals and other animals, those animals would grow in number to where they'd nearly wipe out smaller species. Yet humans have killed so many great whites that they're now on the endangered list.

For more on the great white shark and what you can do to help, go to www.indykids.org.

25%

That's the percentage of Major League Baseball players who were born outside of the United States.

culture&activism

Baseball Fans Take a Swing at Anti-Immigration Law

By ZAZIL DAVIS-VAZQUEZ

Around the country, protesters are rallying against the Arizona state senate bill SB-1070. This bill forces immigrants who are not citizens and who are over age 14 to carry their identification papers at all times. The law also gives police officers the right to pull over anyone they think might be an illegal immigrant. This means the police can stop people based on the way they look. Any immigrant not carrying papers can be arrested and sent to jail for up to 20 days the first time this happens.

People are also joining protests to persuade the Major League Baseball (MLB) commissioner, Bud Selig, to **boycott** Arizona for the All-Star Game in 2011. The All-Star game is a baseball tournament held in the middle of the baseball season. Phoenix, the capital of Arizona, plans to host the game in 2011. However, because of

SB-1070, many people want Bud Selig to choose another location.

Previous boycotts have occurred against countries and states in the midst of political controversies. For example, South Africa was not allowed to take part in the Olympics from 1964 to 1992 because of its apartheid government, a system that legalized the separation of people based on race.

Many MLB players have spoken against this law, saying that it is unfair and wrong. In an interview with the Miami Herald, Augie Ojeda of the Arizona Diamondbacks said, "If I leave the park after a game and I get stopped, am I supposed to have papers on me? I don't think that's fair."

Zazil Davis-Vazquez, age 16, is a student in Queens, New York.



LEO GARCIA

BOYCOTT: to stop doing business with or to stop buying something from a place because you want them to change what they're doing

Make Room for Chickens



Chickens in battery cages

By MAYA DAVIS

A compromise between the Humane Society of the United States and Ohio egg farmers has led to a ban that prohibits the building of new factory farms that keep hens in cages. Instead, new farms will need to house chickens in buildings without cages. These facilities usually have two to three times more room per bird than cages, which hold eight to ten chickens in a space the size of a filing cabinet drawer. Factory egg farms produce millions of eggs a day.

Ohio is not alone in recognizing the need for better living conditions for chickens. According to *The New York Times*, by 2015, caging hens will be illegal in California. Later this year, California will also prohibit the sale of eggs that come from farms that use caging methods. The Humane Society reports that 95 percent of egg-producing chickens are now crammed into small cages.

The United Egg Producers report that if all eggs came from un-caged hens, the price of eggs would go up 25 percent. Animal supporters argue that the issue

should not be a matter of price but of the animals' overall well-being. President of the Vegetarian Society of Georgia, Jill Howard-Church, points out that "if reforming farming practices gets U.S. hens out of cages [...] the sky will not fall, American families won't go bankrupt, and billions of birds will have at least some relief."

Similar laws are being considered in other states and for other farm animals such as cows raised for veal and female pigs.

Maya Davis, age 13, is a student in Queens, New York.

your turn

Your Turn: Should schools serve healthier food?

The U.S. Senate passed a bill to get more healthy food into schools and to limit the amount of junk food served in school cafeterias. These kids from the Elmhurst branch of the Queens Public Library in New York tell us what they think.

PHOTOS BY JIAWEN SHEN



I think that schools should have a petition, and the most voted will be served three times a week, while the others once.

Jason Lieng



I think that this is a good idea, but they should serve just maybe a little bit of junk food.

Jacek Mrozek



I think that the schools should serve more international food.

Charley Shu



I think that junk food should be allowed in moderation.

Jade Tabor



I want to see foods like salads made with vegetables and fruits that people enjoy eating every day, and maybe corn on the cob. Healthy choices make healthy bodies.

Arafaf Arman



GETTY IMAGES

Zachary Bonner: Going the Extra Mile for Homeless Kids

By JUDI CHENG

Some kids like to kick a ball around. Some kids watch television. Other kids, like Zachary Bonner, age 12, from Tampa, Florida, are raising awareness about problems that need to be talked about. He decided to walk across the United States in order to raise money for kids who become homeless. Zachary has walked between 20 and 26 miles a day since March 26, 2010. His mother and brother join him on the walk, and Zachary studies through online classes. Through his walk across the country, he is hoping to help homeless kids by talking to people he meets and collecting donations for the Little Red Wagon Foundation, the charity he started in 2005.

Between 1.6 to 1.7 million youth under age 18 become homeless each year. *IndyKids* interviewed Zach about his work to help homeless kids.

IndyKids: How did you first become aware of social issues like homelessness?

Zach Bonner: I started doing community service at age six. When Hurricane Charley hit Florida in 2004, it missed our area by a little bit, but another area near us, Punta Gorda, was hit hard. I got neighbors and friends to donate water and other supplies by handing out flyers.

IK: How do kids become homeless?

ZB: For many reasons. Sometimes it has to do with situations at home, parents losing jobs, and other problems. Some gay kids get kicked out of their homes for being gay. Some kids feel it's safer to live on the streets.

IK: What do you think can be done to help homeless kids?

ZB: Everyone needs to work together. A lot of people don't know that homeless kids exist. People should know that kids are not homeless because they want to be. They are not homeless because they don't want to follow rules. For these kids, things just get out of control.

IK: What would you say to kids who want to do something to make positive changes in our world?

ZB: Find something that you are passionate about. Research it. Think of ways you can make a difference.

For more information, and to track Zachary on his walk, go to:

www.littleredwagonfoundation.com
www.marchacrossamerica.com

letters

I liked the article about the Gulf Coast in Mexico because it makes other people aware of how an oil spill can kill the lives of other people, which made me very depressed. This made me realize that if more oil were to go inside the Gulf Coast, another explosion would occur killing more lives of innocent people.

**Antranig Gharibian, 10th Grade,
Patchogue-Medford Highschool**

This is the first issue I'm reading. I think it's great. I read the article about the

messages in the books and questions to ask, which I'm going to try to answer every time I read a book, if I remember them.

**Calvin Maholick, 2nd Grade,
Mahoning Elementary School**

I think that the Turkish government was wrong to deny that the genocide against the Armenian people ever happened. It was disturbing that the Turkish government would ever do such a thing to kill a lot of people just because they are different.

**Maia Nelson, 4th Grade, University Child
Development School**

I think you should get new articles every week to keep kids entertained. I like how you take letters to the editor.

**Hannah Sethi, 2nd Grade, North Walpole
Elementary School**



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or grab a pencil and write to: *IndyKids*,
P.O. Box 2281,
New York NY 10163



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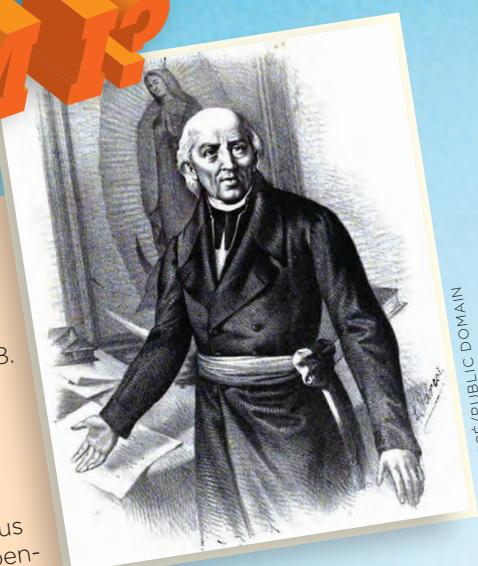
WHO AM I?

Mexico is celebrating its 200th birthday this Fall. Try and figure out who this important Mexican historical figure is!

1. I was born on May 8, 1753 in what is now Mexico and became a priest in 1778.
2. In 1810, I led a revolt against the Spaniards in Mexico. My rebellion was the beginning of the Mexican War of Independence.
3. My goal was to make the indigenous people more self-reliant and less dependent on the Spanish government.
4. I was executed on July 30, 1811 and was later called the Father of the Nation of Mexico.

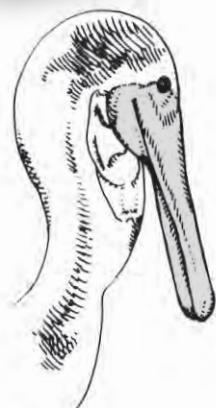
Happy Bicentennial, Mexico!
(September 16, 1810)

Answer: Don Miguel Hidalgo



L. GARÇÉ/PUBLIC DOMAIN

COMPLETE THE PICTURE

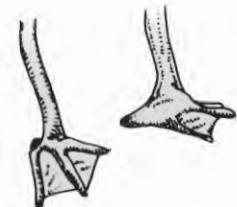


Match each question with one of the answers below:

1. For how many months did oil gush from the damaged oil well in the Gulf of Mexico?
2. When the oil and gas well first exploded in the Gulf of Mexico, estimates about how much oil was coming out differed widely. How many barrels a day did BP officially say were coming out?
3. How many barrels a day did scientists estimate were coming out?
4. How many square miles of the Gulf of Mexico were directly affected by oil from late April through September 2010?

A. 5,000 B. 4 C. 68,000 D. 1,000

Answers: 1-B; 2-D; 3-A; 4-C



MIKE NEWTON

OILY MATH

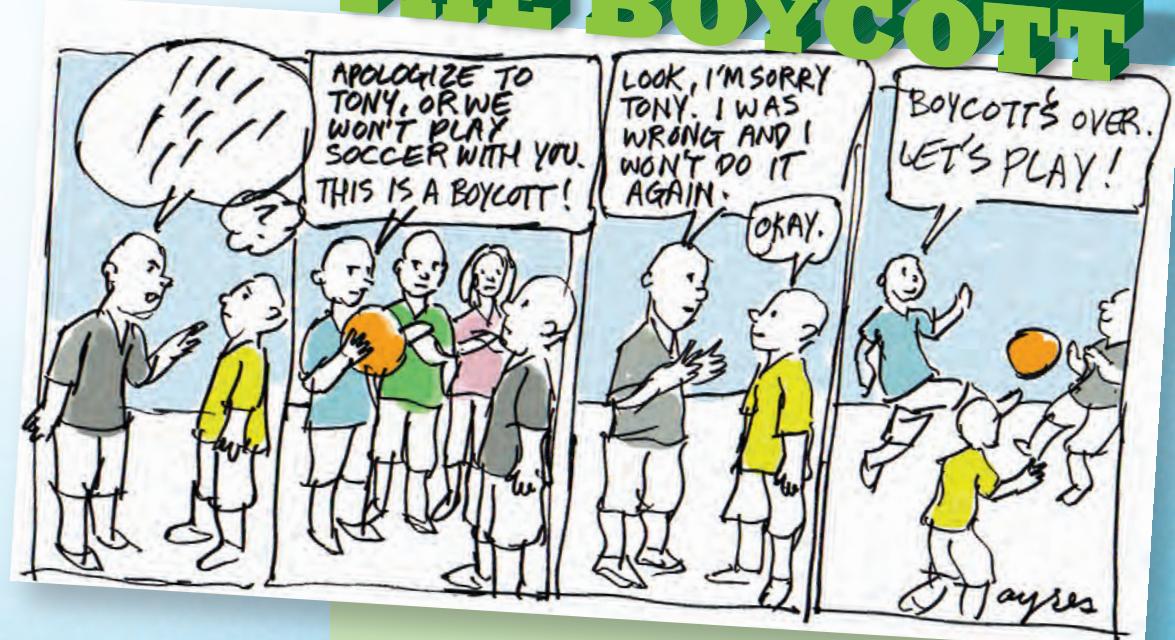


WORD SEARCH

See how many words you can find!

BLOCKADE	FLOOD	MOSQUE
CLEAN WATER	FREEDOM	NATIVE
CLIMATE	GLOBAL HEAT	OIL SPILL
DISABILITY	IMMIGRANT	SCHOOL

THE BOYCOTT



The article "Baseball Fans Take a Swing at Anti-Immigration Law" (page six) explains how some people are calling for a boycott of Arizona, in protest of the new immigration law. This cartoon shows an example of another type of boycott. Cartoon by Will Ayres.